

REMARKS¹

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 21-30 for informalities, rejected claims 1-7, 21, 22, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2004/0148539 ("Leydier"), and rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Leydier in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0057682 ("Hansen"). The Examiner indicated that claims 8-20, 23-25, and 28-30 contain allowable subject matter, but objected to these claims as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicants have rewritten claims 11, 14, 17, 23-25, 28-30 in independent form to include all elements of their respective base independent claims and any intervening claims and to also overcome the objection thereto. Applicants have also amended claim 27 to depend from independent claim 28. Therefore, rewritten independent claims 11, 14, 17, 23-25, 28-30, and their dependent claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-20, and 27 are now allowable.

Applicants traverse the rejections of claims 1-7, 21, 22, 26, and 27. Applicants note that, as discussed above, amended claim 27 now depends from rewritten independent claim 28, which contains allowable subject matter. To expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have canceled claims 21, 22, and 26, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, thereby rendering moot the rejections thereof.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8, which the Examiner indicated is allowable, and the subject matter of intervening claim 5. To maintain consistency, claims 5 and 8 have been cancelled, and claims 6 and 9 are amended to depend from amended claim 1. Consequently, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 are allowable, and the rejection of claims 1-7 should be withdrawn.

Finally, Applicants have amended the specification to correct grammatical and typographical errors and also to improve form. Applicants note one particular error that appears to have been introduced into Equation (1) at line 1 on page 8 during filing of this application as the national stage of a PCT application. A copy of the publication of the PCT application is attached, which shows Equation (1) in its correct form.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance of pending claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-20, 23-25, and 27-30. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the application.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Publication of International Application under PCT